



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

18th May 2018  
Week 33

Britannica International School is a British school located in the heart of Shanghai, providing a British style education to international families with children aged 2 to 18.



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**DAVID GOODWIN**  
**PRINCIPAL**

**Dear Parents,**

What a busy week we have had in our Swimming Pool. Every child from Reception upwards has had the opportunity to be involved in one of our Swimming Galas. After four days of Galas we can certainly say we have made the best use of our excellent school swimming facilities this week.

The weather this week has posed a challenge to everyone, but thankfully again our excellent indoor facilities have allowed most activities, lessons and events to continue, despite the exceptionally hot and humid weather outside.

Our Early Years Open Day on Wednesday was such a huge success that we had to invite some parents to a further one next week. We are delighted to know how popular our Early Years has become with Shanghai families.

Twice this week prospective parents, having done the rounds of other schools, have commented directly on the special warmth and family feel that they have experienced during their visit to Britannica and how this is going to be their deciding factor in selecting us as the school of choice. What a lovely testament to the welcoming atmosphere that our creative and caring teachers have developed in their classrooms and in the corridors.

Next week, we look forward to our Open House Coffee Morning on Tuesday, where we welcome all and any parents to attend and share with us coffee and have a chat about school life and their experiences as we continue to plan ahead school development for 2018-2019.

Do enjoy reading about the events that have taken place this week





## Week in Pre-Nursery

All of us in Pre-Nursery would like to extend a big thank-you to the Mothers, Ais and Grandmothers that joined us last Friday for our Mother's Day event. The children had a lovely time, especially enjoying our lovely outdoor space together with their special guests.

This week we began our new topic, *At the Beach*, with a focus on people at the beach, the activities we like to do at the beach and the different things we take with us when we go to the beach. Pre-Nursery children were excited and curious when engaging in role-play, small world and sensory experiences related to our theme. Many children also enjoyed sharing photos from home of their own swimming and beach experiences, with these photos prompting many interesting discussions amongst the children.

A big warm welcome to our newest class-member, Valerie, who joins us this week in Pre-Nursery B and to Miss Caroline who also joins us as Pre-Nursery B's teaching assistant.







## Week in Nursery

The Nursery children have been very busy this week pretending to be shape hunters by searching our school for real life shapes; who knew there would be so many! We found shapes in the swimming pool area, shapes in the library, shapes in the classroom and shapes in the canteen! We have been using mathematical language to talk about 2D and 3D shapes, using words like corners, sides and faces. We have had great fun digging through the messy trays to discover the shapes that are hiding inside and using our newly learnt words.

The children have been monitoring the seeds they planted last week and we have discovered that we need to water them every day in order for them to grow. Our seed experiment was to test if a seed will grow in the darkness, so we have hidden one seed in a box and placed one seed plant on the windowsill. Can your child predict which seed will grow the most? Let's wait and see what happens!

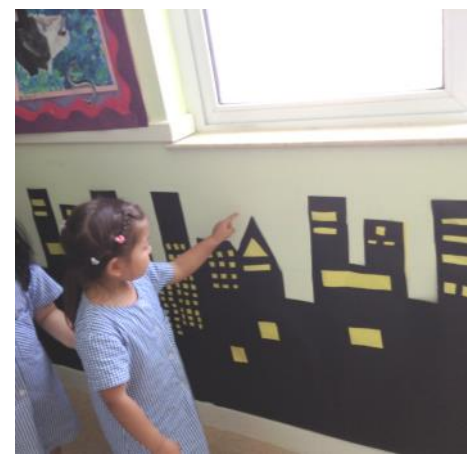
The Nursery Team







## Week in Nursery







## Week in Reception

It could not have been more appropriate that Reception started their topic 'Water' this week as in PE all the children took part in their first ever Swimming Gala. There was tons of splashing and splashing of water as the children eagerly competed in their houses in a variety of races. One of the favourites had to be pushing the large floats across the pool. Thank you to all parents who came to cheer on the children and for also getting into the pool to support the children.







## Week in Reception







## Year 1—Book Worms

This week, teachers have been reflecting on how much progress Year 1 have made and how proud we are of them. Library and book changing time has become one of our favourites. The children are taking responsibility of their own learning and choosing their own reading books to read. Not only that, they are so enthusiastic about discussing their books. Children are recommending a range of books to read with reasons why they should try it. When I think back to the start of the year when the children were learning to blend and read the initial sounds to where they are now; reading stories and nonfiction books with enjoyment it is fantastic to witness. It's all down to the children's constant hard work and perseverance. Well done, Year 1.



## Year 2

This week, our focus in Year 2 has been collecting data. The end result has been cross curricular success, improving our social interactions and verbal communication in English by asking different classes questions and gathering answers to tally and produce bar charts and pictograms. The children are learning more about each other than ever with questions like 'What is your shoe size?', 'What instruments do you play?' and 'What football team do you support?'.

In Topic we are now starting to distinguish foods that are good for us, what foods are treat foods and what the effects of eating certain foods do to our body. The children had the opportunity to categorise foods into which category they think they should go in.







## Year 3

This week, Year 3 continued exploring Egypt as they researched and discovered famous landmarks on the map of Egypt and the history regarding them. Children used atlases and maps on the computers to locate various points of interest both in modern and ancient Egypt. In Maths we recapped our knowledge on place value and explored how decimal places are used to help us record money. We looked at the different coins and notes used both in Britain and China, and solved everyday word problems about money. In Science, we discussed how magnets are used in our everyday lives and their uses. Our investigation consisted of our very own 'metal scrap heap' where we used magnets to sort magnetic and nonmagnetic materials.



## Year 4

After GL testing, it has been nice to return to normality in Year 4 this week. In Maths, children looked at finding equivalent fractions and converting between fractions and decimals, whilst in English, children have been focusing on creating their very own drama and role plays in small groups. This week also saw the KS2 Swimming Gala, which the children in Year 4 really engaged in. Many children performed brilliantly. This can be said for the children who recorded excellent times, and also the children who were brave and had a go at completing the 25-metre distance in a range of events. In Topic, we continued to work towards our China information book, which involves working collaboratively across the year group to research various parts of Chinese culture.







## Year 5

This week in Maths, Year 5 have been learning about translations; moving an object from one place to another. We related this to line dancing and played a Translation Treasure Hunt game. Then we practised translating shapes using vectors and drew the newly translated shapes and their new coordinates. In English, we have continued to study explanation texts and begun to write our own explanation about how Jiba the robot can help you. In Science, the children are nearly concluding their unit on Materials and Processes. They were able to successfully filter a range of solutions and could test their hypothesis to see if they were right. After this, students looked at reversible and irreversible changes and sorted these according to whether the materials could be separated into their constituent parts or not.



## Year 6

Year 6 have continued with their *Healthy Living* topic. In Mathematics they began designing a health survey using Microsoft Excel. Students were spilt into groups covering Diet, Exercise and Hygiene and composed questions in order to collect a wide range of data about other children's healthy (or unhealthy) habits. They will analyse this information to determine how healthy the class is and present it to their peers using different types of graph. In Science, children further explored healthy diets by researching a variety of fruits and sorting them according to flavours. This will be used as a base for an upcoming project ... more details to follow next week... In English children are now nearly ready to write the first part to their 'Mystery and Suspense' stories. We will continue to work on these and develop them over the coming weeks.







## Year 7 - Caribbean Music Unit

This term, Year 7 have been finishing off their Caribbean Unit by arranging a song by Harry Belafonte called *Water Come a Me Eye*.

They have also created some of their own verses for this song. They worked out a structure that was suitable for them, creating an intro and outro as well as a solo section. All students were involved in the process looking at the dynamics to which parts each person should play and how it should sound when put together. It showed excellent teamwork. Well done, Year 7!



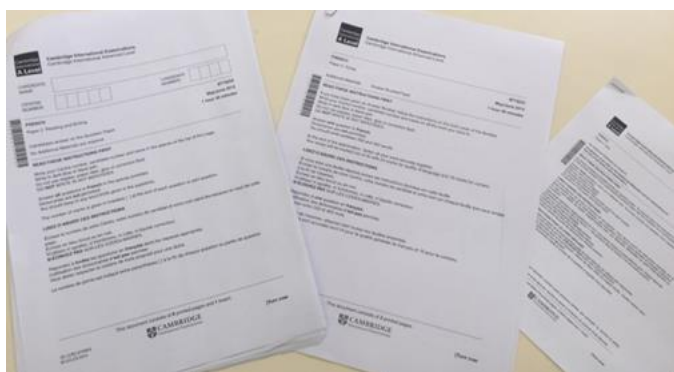
## A-Level French exams are just around the corner!

**What we study at A-Level French:** Students learn to communicate fluently in the language both orally and in writing. They read and listen to authentic material in order to develop their comprehension skills and their knowledge of the culture. They study topics, articles, literary texts and films relevant to the countries where the language is spoken.

**The final exam:** the exam has 4 components. **Oral** with presentation and conversation only in French for 20 minutes, **Reading** where the student read 2 real society articles and answer comprehension questions, **Essay** shows the ability of the student to organise arguments and express a point of view, **Texts** is one the most challenging exam along with Oral where the student has to recognise points of view, attitudes and emotions and how to extract meaning from more complex language.

**Our student at Britannica:** Chris Hu, one of our Year 13 Students, is learning French at A Level. During these two years of courses she has gone through a variety of culture and society topics like immigration, environment, youth culture... She has read in French language three French famous literary texts : "Thérèse Raquin" d'Emile Zola, "Le malade imaginaire" de Molière and "le chercheur d'or" de Le Clezio. She has already passed her French oral exam where after a research work she made a presentation on the topic of 'Gender equality in French society'. Now she is revising for her next three French exams: Reading, Essay and Texts.

*Chris has worked very hard to complete the courses and make French language more alive in her life. We wish Chris a good Luck for her exam!*







## Student Profile

Hello! I'm John from Year 10 and I am getting ready to take my IGCSE's next year. This year has been fantastic for me. I have found it hard to get ready for exams and learning vocabulary but my teachers helped and supported me.

I have been at Britannica for about three years and it has been awesome. School is small so the teachers can pay more attention to students, which is beneficial for them, and also students are free to use good resources and new facilities in school. I found it fun to play football with my friends at lunchtime. **John, Year 10**

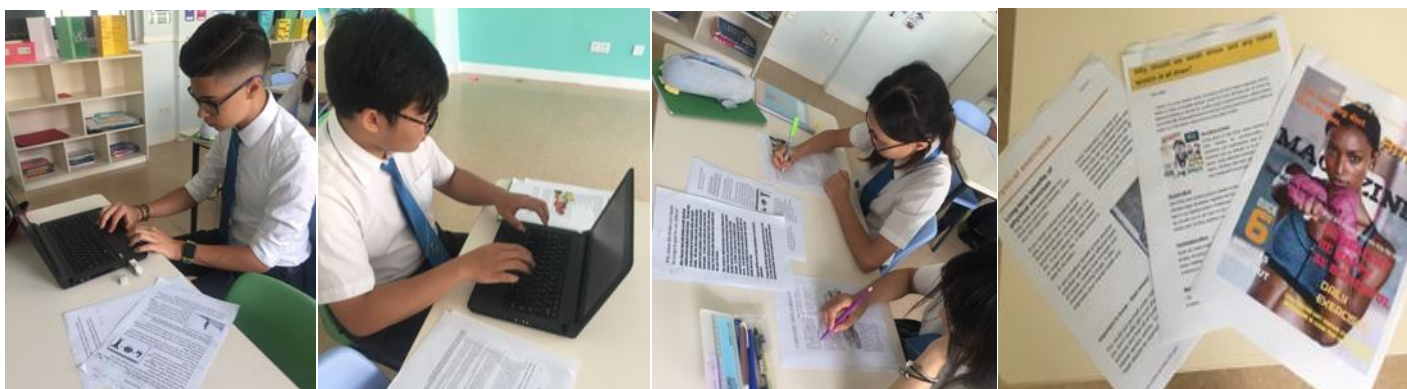


## Year 10-11 EAL

Year 10-11 EAL have been fully engrossed in creating their own Health and Fitness magazine, in conjunction with their current iGCSE topic. Students have been researching about healthy food choices, great exercise activities, and the benefits of regular sleep. They have been working collaboratively to peer review each other's articles and create their own magazine covers. This has been very beneficial to students' ICT skills, as they have had to do their own research and formatting. The students have been working very hard to write objectively about their given topics and have enjoyed learning about healthy lifestyle choices!

If you would like an application form then please email [saturdayschool@britannicashanghai.com](mailto:saturdayschool@britannicashanghai.com).

Mr Donald



## Expressive Arts Department

Next week, Britannica welcomes parents, families and friends for two evenings of song and dance in the school theatre, where pupils will be showcasing their amazing talents in a production of Honk! The Cast and crew are very excited at being able to take part in this performance along with a KS2 Chorus. A different chorus will feature each night so come along and support these wonderful students and their talent.

The Musical, Honk! is a musical adapted from the story of the Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Andersen. Families can look forward to wonderful performances by pupils of Britannica International School, Shanghai and a fun night of entertainment for all. There will be performances at the following times:

**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May (7:00 pm)**

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> May (7:00 pm)**

On both nights, doors will open at 6:30 pm and the show will begin at 7:00 pm in the school theatre on the second floor. Please note that entrance is by free ticket only, which are now available to parents, families and friends by contacting Britannica International School, Shanghai's reception during school opening hours on + 86 21 6402 7889.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Estelle Owens, Director of Expressive Arts**







## Years 8–10 Trip to Zhaojialou

Our Year 8, 9 and 10 students have had a wonderful day in Zhaojialou, an ancient water town located in south-east Shanghai! As one of the earliest farming areas in Shanghai, Zhaojialou has a history of over 500 years and has preserved the architecture styles of the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

Students toured around the town and communicated with local residents using their Mandarin skills to find out what life in a water town is like. They also practised oral Mandarin while shopping and ordering food in restaurants. Here is what our students have to say about the trip:

*"Zhaojialou ancient town was a beautiful place. Many people run small shops there and they were full of vigour. I could feel Chinese culture from there. I like the town because it has a unique atmosphere."* **Weilin Piao, Year 10**

*"I thought the trip to the ancient village was a great chance to learn about Chinese culture. We learnt it through the many foods they offered, the history they displayed, and the bridge we crossed. Overall I had a great time eating food and having an exciting time with friends."* **Francis Hawkey, Year 10**

*"When we were in Zhaojialou, we learned a lot of new things and played around getting to know the town. Although it was very hot, there was a lot of beautiful scenery and antique buildings."* **Lynn Tan, Year 8**

*"I really enjoyed observing ancient architecture and trying some new Chinese dishes such as stinky tofu, sweet and sour beef, vinegar cucumber and spicy eggplant. It was very hot but I enjoyed being with friends and spending time with other schoolmates."* **Izabella Benovitskaya, Year 9**







## Britannica Swimming Galas

Today brings an end to a week of excitement in the pool for Britannica's swimmers.

KS2 students competed in their swimming gala on Tuesday with a great showing from everyone and some personal bests! Wednesday and Thursday we held swimming galas for our KS1 and reception students focusing on improving their techniques and having some fun races in the water. We rounded off the week with our secondary students taking part in their Swimming gala.

This was an opportunity for them to improve their technique in the four main strokes and try to set some personal best times. All of the students competed as part of their houses which really created a sense of belonging and team spirit.

We will award the winning houses in assemblies next week. Great showing all round by all our swimmers!

## Key Stage 2—Swimming Gala







## Key Stage 1—Swimming Gala







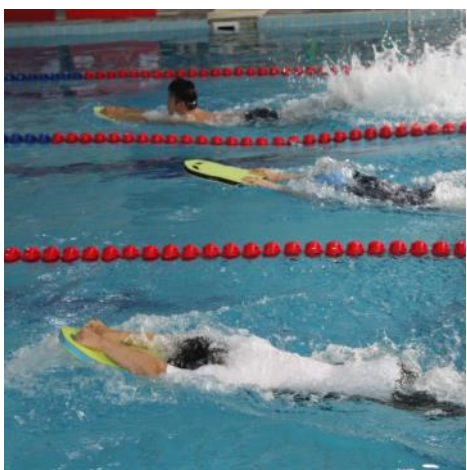
## Reception —Swimming Gala







## Secondary — Swimming Gala







**BRITANNICA**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

PRESENTS

# HONK!

## THE MUSICAL



OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

### WHEN

- Thursday, 24th May
- Friday, 25th May

### WHERE

- School Theatre  
Second floor

Entrance is by ticket only, which must be booked in advance by contacting  
Britannica's main reception or by telephoning +86 21 6402 7889

Doors open at 6:30pm / Show starts 7:00pm





# ENTREPRENEURIAL DAY

**Business Plans to be  
handed in  
by May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Applications open to  
all students of  
Britannica**

**Entries Handed to:**  
**Rebecca.hatton@britannicashanghai.com**  
**Conrad.botha@britannicashanghai.com**



**»» PRIZE FOR BEST AND  
MOST PROFITABLE IDEA**



**6VIP Disney Tickets**

**Britannica International School**

Designed by Robyn





## 2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



### May 2018

- ★ Tuesday, 22nd May— Coffee Morning for all parents
- ★ Thursday, 24th May—Honk Performance
- ★ Friday, 25th May—Honk Performance



★ Parent Event    All School    EYFS    Primary    Secondary    School Holiday    Other

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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